

Remarks

Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 25 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 9 are the independent claims. Claims 2, 4, 10-13, 15, 17, 20, 22 and 24 have been canceled.

Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

The indication that claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 25 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully noted. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25 depend from claim 3; claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 5; and claim 19 depends from claim 6. As such, claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 has been canceled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP404363651A to Tsukada et al in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art.

Claims 1, 4, 10 and 11 have been canceled. As such, the rejection is moot, and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/069,776
Amendment dated March 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2003

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objections and rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 25 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

03/26/04

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